



Peter Ilych Tchaikovsky
1840-1893



- First Russian composer to be well known outside of his country.
- Growing up, music was not a career option so he studied for a civil service position. At the age of 19 he took a job at the Ministry of Justice, and continued to study music on his own.
- Eventually, he quit his job and attended the St. Petersburg Conservatory to study composition. Years later he became a Professor of Music Theory at the Moscow Conservatory.
- He had a wealthy patron, Nadzhada Von Meck, who paid him a generous yearly stipend. This helped make it possible for him to focus all his attention on composing.
- In 1891, Tchaikovsky conducted on the opening concert at Carnegie Hall in New York City.
- *The Nutcracker* was composed when he returned home from his visit to the United States. The original production was not very successful, but the music by itself was.
- Over his lifetime, he composed many works including operas, piano pieces, concertos, choral music, six symphonies, and music for two more ballets—*Swan Lake* (1877) and *Sleeping Beauty* (1889). He also composed *1812 Overture*, complete with cannons!



Edward Kennedy “Duke” Ellington
1899-1974

Ellington c. 1940



- Born in Washington, D.C., he was an American composer, pianist and leader of a jazz orchestra.
 - He started piano lessons at the age of 7, but his real love was baseball. His first job was selling peanuts at the ball park.
 - He formed his first band at the age of 18.
- Think about the many changes in America during the 20th century, and each one contributed to the ups and downs of Duke Ellington’s life and music:
- Live music venues such as the Cotton Club
 - Radio with live musicians in the studios
 - Recording industry beginning with the 78s
 - Music publishing
 - Travelling bands
 - Segregation
 - World War II
 - Films and film scores
- His work has been recognized in many ways including a Presidential Medal of Freedom.
 - Duke Ellington Orchestra signature tune is “Take the A Train” by Billy Strayhorn.



1915-1967

Billy Strayhorn

- Born in Ohio, he was an American jazz composer, pianist, lyricist, arranger and collaborated with Duke Ellington.
- He grew up between Pittsburgh, PA and Hillsborough, NC. His grandmother was his primary influence, and it was at her house that he learned to play the piano and listened to records.
- His goal was to become a classical composer, but once introduced to jazz that’s where he devoted his energy.
- He seemed to do his best work in Ellington’s shadow. Sometimes Ellington was credited with Strayhorn’s work.
- *The Nutcracker Suite* was a collaboration with Ellington, recorded in 1960.
- He was a friend of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and participated in many civil rights causes.
- Duke Ellington said, “Billy Strayhorn was my right arm, my left arm, all the eyes in the back of my head, my brain waves in his head, and his in mine.”

Work alone or with a partner to compare movements from Peter Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker Suite* and the arrangement by Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn.

- Choose 3 of the 4 pages/pairs of movements to complete.
- Write notes to describe at least four elements of each movement.

	<i>Nutcracker Suite</i> , Peter Tchaikovsky	<i>Nutcracker Suite</i> , arr. Duke Ellington & Billy Strayhorn
Elements	Describe characteristics of "March." https://youtu.be/9t1AeJm7XF0 (2:31)	Describe characteristics of "Peanut Brittle Brigade." https://youtu.be/MnouQ_gPs2E (4:37)
Instruments or Instrument families • Soloists • Mutes; special effects		
Dynamics • Range; changes		
Articulation • Staccato, accent, legato		
Improvisation		
Mood or energy		
Performers' technical skills • Intonation, range • Technique • Sense of ensemble		

Do you think Peter Tchaikovsky would have liked "Peanut Brittle Brigade"? Support your opinion using details from the music. _____

	<i>Nutcracker Suite</i> , Peter Tchaikovsky	<i>Nutcracker Suite</i> , arr. Duke Ellington & Billy Strayhorn
Elements	Describe characteristics of “Waltz of the Flowers.” https://youtu.be/AxMIBNtXrVk (0:00-6:40)	Describe characteristics of “Dance of the Floreadores.” https://youtu.be/f2_VsYfl2KU (4:04)
Instruments or Instrument families • Soloists • Mutes; special effects		
Meter • Duple or triple		
Dynamics • Range; changes		
Articulation • Staccato, accent, legato		
Improvisation		
Mood or energy		
Performers’ technical skills • Intonation, range • Technique • Sense of ensemble		

What is one way these movements are similar? Explain your observation using details from the music. _____

	<i>Nutcracker Suite</i> , Peter Tchaikovsky	<i>Nutcracker Suite</i> , arr. Duke Ellington & Billy Strayhorn
Elements	Describe characteristics of "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy." https://youtu.be/Ow4t3C_gCCY (2:24)	Describe characteristics of "Dance of the Sugar Rum Cherry". https://youtu.be/ONknTGUckKc (3:05)
Instruments or Instrument families • Soloists • Mutes; special effects		
Tempo • Speed; changes		
Dynamics • Range; changes		
Articulation • Staccato, accent, legato		
Improvisation		
Mood or energy		
Make a small drawing using one color and one geometric shape that best fit the mood of the music.		

Which movement did you like better? Explain your preference using details from the music. _____

	<i>Nutcracker Suite</i> , Peter Tchaikovsky	<i>Nutcracker Suite</i> , arr. Duke Ellington & Billy Strayhorn
Elements	Describe characteristics of "Russian Dance." https://youtu.be/TmQjhwsPRDE (1:10)	Describe characteristics of "The Volga Vouty." https://youtu.be/TORoxQtiTrE (2:51)
Instruments or Instrument families • Soloists • Mutes; special effects		
Tempo • Speed; changes		
Dynamics • Range; changes		
Articulation • Staccato, accent, legato		
Improvisation		
Mood or energy		
Other observations?		

After 100+ years, why do you suppose *The Nutcracker Suite* is still well known? Support your opinion using details from the music. _____
